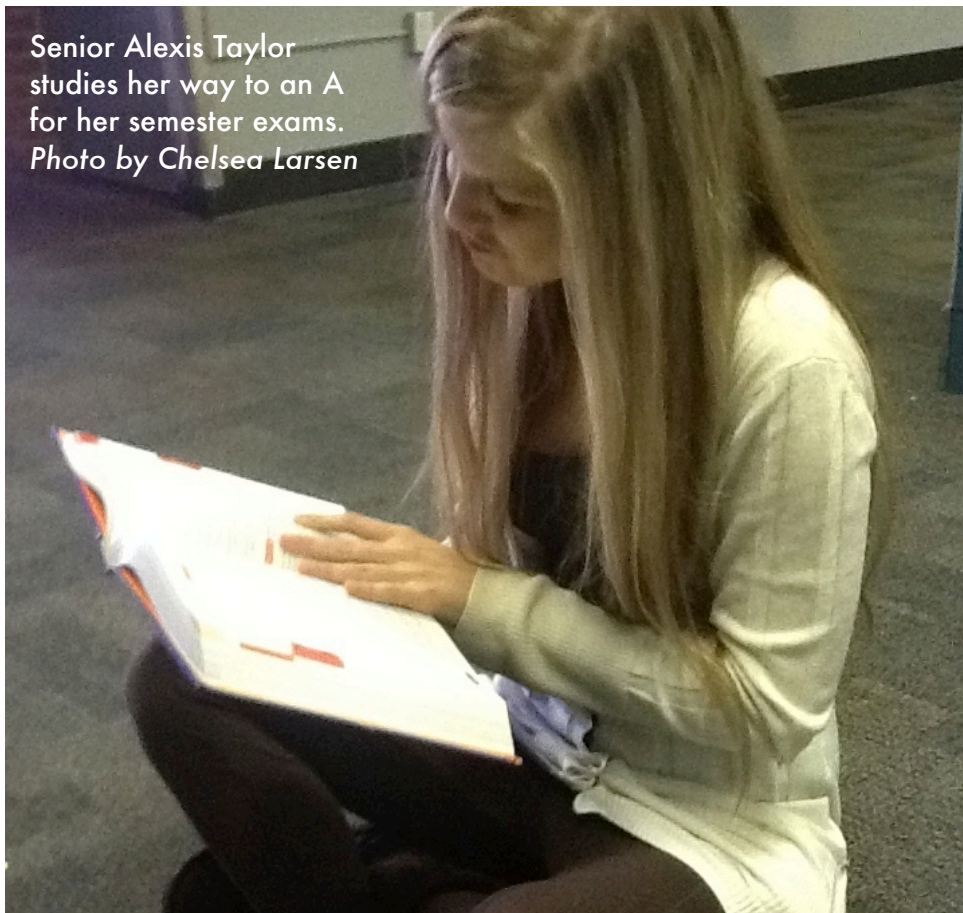


DECEMBER 2011

# Calhoun Chronicle

Senior Alexis Taylor  
studies her way to an A  
for her semester exams.  
*Photo by Chelsea Larsen*



## Crunch time: tips for testing

by Chelsea Larsen  
*Staff Writer*

As the dreaded semester exams approach, many students and teachers find themselves preparing for the two-day event.

Many students become nervous and even lose sleep. Need some advice on the best pre-exam tips? Follow these tips to ace the big tests.

"I look over my notes, read them and it always seems to help me understand better and refresh my memory," says senior Alexis Taylor.

-Do not stay up all night studying on the day before the test.

- Study in a small group. Only choose students who are serious about studying, choosing a friend just for the entertainment of him or her may ruin your

chances of staying focused and studying hard.

-Review your notes, you take them for a reason. Notes aren't just busy work, they're helpful, check 'em out.

Although these tips are very helpful, it's the actual test that may freak out some students. Get jumpy before you start the test? Follow these easy steps.

-Stay calm and relax.

-Read carefully.

-Take a watch. Plan out how long you intend to spend on each question and don't spend any longer than that on any single question. Leave time for review.

-Don't necessarily do the problems in numerical order. Do the problems by which are easiest and worth the most points first.

-Review your answers to each question. Make sure all blanks are filled and that your name is on the test.

Get ready students, semester exams are rolling around fast!

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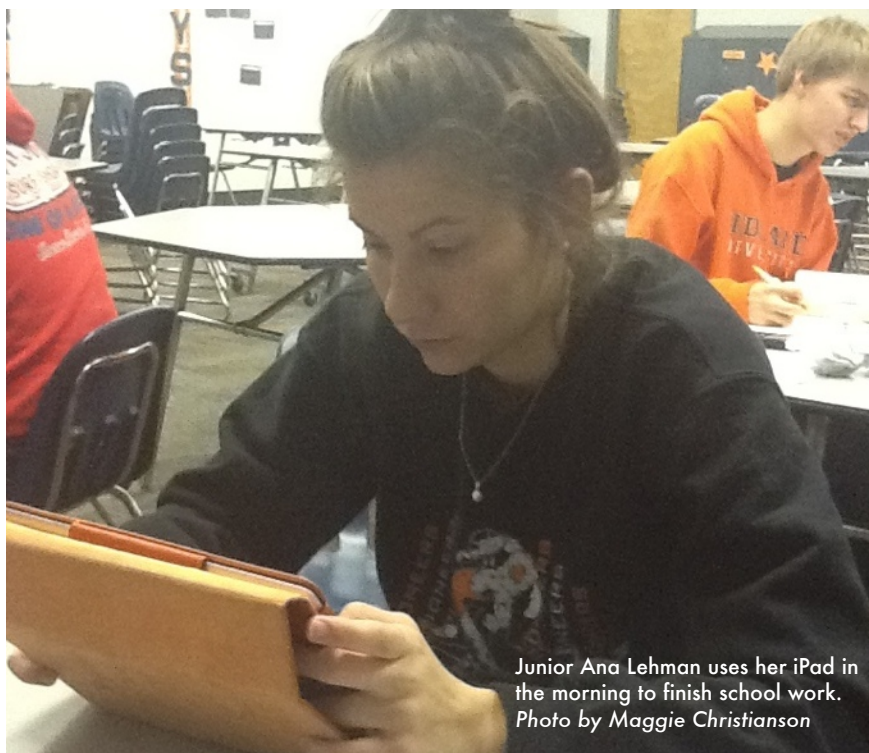
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Junior Ana Lehman uses her iPad in the morning to finish school work.  
Photo by Maggie Christianson

## iPad success for all high schoolers in 2012

by Maggie Christianson  
Staff Writer

You would have thought that the iPad excitement would have been done and over with when the junior class started as a pilot group in August. If that was your assumption, then you were wrong.

Seniors, sophomores and freshmen students will receive iPads when they return from Christmas break. Senior Amber Linnenbrink said, "I'm very excited because I see lots of ways we can be using them in and out of the classroom."

The eleventh graders have been using them since August of this year, and they have been enjoying the activities and projects they've got to use their iPads for. Junior Katlynn Hale said, "Using the art apps to make collages was a great experience for me."

Hale also mentioned that when she made flyers for history, it helped her develop and maintain the information a lot easier and more effectively.

Altogether, the iPad technology has made learning better and a lot more convenient. The device has truly been a success.

Mr. Green said, "The iPads have been a tremendous success. It has changed the way teachers instruct students, [and] it has opened up education to all types of learners. Curriculum hasn't really changed, but how students learn and the different avenues now available to learners because of the iPads has brought the classrooms into the 21st century."





Sophomore Breann Ohrt shops with her grandma to buy Christmas gifts for the "Adopt a Family" program.  
Photos by Brooke Ohrt



## Be giving, adopt a family

by Brooke Ohrt  
Staff Writer

Bright lights shining in the dark, white snow falling from the sky and the smell of warm fresh-baked cookies get you in the mood for the upcoming holidays. Most people are worried about what to get their parents or siblings, but there are many others worrying about what to buy a stranger.

Adopt a Family is a program that has grown to be popular over the recent years. Some high school students have been taking part in this since the age of five, and some elders have been doing this their whole life. What is Adopt a Family?

This program is a way to help out people in need. Not all children get to experience the holidays most of us get to, so others in the community go out of their way to provide a positive experience for these families.

"That's what the holidays are about," said Kathy Ohrt. "I've been doing this since I was in junior high. I get a family to "adopt" from any place I can find them. Almost every year it has been different. It gives me a very good feeling. This gets me more excited for the holidays than anything else I do."

Ohrt and her granddaughter, freshman Breann Ohrt, bought gifts for Brandy, a single woman with poor health conditions and who has two young boys.

"This makes me feel extremely excited for my boys. I didn't know what I was going to do for the holidays until the Ohrts came along. This makes a huge difference for me and my boys, and this is something I would definitely do in the future if my financial situation is different," says Brandy.

Not only does the holiday spirit get people excited, but there are many opportunities to help the less fortunate. Adopt a Family is a program that people of all ages can participate in. Junior Maddie Westergard also gets involved with this program over the holidays through her church.

"This gives me a good feeling. I feel less greedy and more giving. My favorite part of this is the reaction on the family's faces when we deliver the gifts," Westergard says.

When you do this program through a church or an organization, many times, they give you a money limit, such as \$25 for a family of three. However, most families go above and beyond this money limit, and buy whatever they think is enough.

This program has been going on for many many years, and its popularity has grown. I encourage participating in Adopt a Family. If you're interested in adopting a family, contact your local church or the Open Door Mission.

## Getting sick is the pits

by Amanda O'Keefe  
Staff Writer

Even though the winter landscape can be picturesque, what the season does to the body can be less than pretty.

Keep germs away everyday by washing your hands and covering your mouth when you cough. By coughing and sneezing you send tiny germ-filled droplets into the air. That is how you can spread the flu or colds.

"I prefer not to talk about germs, it makes me want to wash my hands again," says germ-phobe senior Ali Boyd.

"I only use my handy hand sanitizer for little things, but when I really want to clean them well I use soap," says Boyd.

"The best way to prevent getting sick is to make sure you wash your hands and don't share any drinks," said Mrs Lloyd.



Photo courtesy of [clevelandleader.com](http://clevelandleader.com)

## Choir Sings its Heart Out for the Holidays

by Ali Boyd  
*Staff Writer*

It's that time of year again when all the bells are ringing and Fort Calhoun choir students are singing. The 2011 Christmas Concert is going to be held on Dec. 20.

The first set is the Show Choir singing their "Opening Night Medley", along with "Jingle Bell Rock."

Many choir students are excited for the second concert of the year. "I think that no matter how well we do, we will still have fun," says junior Jessica Gammons.

This is the first show that the show choir will perform.

"I'm honestly a little nervous for us, but I think we will do okay," says junior Justin Lester.

The Junior High choir will sing their set, and the high school will follow. The high school set list includes "Et in Terra Pox," "Dinga-Ding", "Hanerot", "Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy" and "Going to Bethlehem".

"My favorite song is 'Dinga-Ding' because we have the most fun with it," says Gammons.

## Band Raises Holiday Spirits

by Jesse Nelson  
*Co-Editor*

Dec. 11 was the annual band concert in the high school gym directed by Mr. Jones. The concert played well-known Christmas songs and was a great way to spend the afternoon.

The concert kicked off with a performance by the junior high band. Then the lights were dimmed as the senior high band took the floor and performed a variety of Christmas songs.

Junior Josh Pace, president of the band and leader of the percussion section, is a very important part of the band.

"It was a struggle to get ready on time, but I think we pulled it off alright," Pace said.

Junior Jacob Wilson, alto saxophonist, thought the performance could have gone a little smoother.

"The concert did not go as well as we had hoped, but it was still a good experience," Wilson said.

Once again, the band didn't fail to provide an evening of memorable entertainment and to raise the level of holiday spirit.



Tuba players Cameron Cate, junior, and Steven Determan, sophomore, lead the bass section in the concert. Photo by Jesse Nelson

# Holiday Break Adventures

by Julie Hofer  
*Staff Writer*

Is holiday break a fun or boring time for you? Do you find yourself striving to find something to do? If you want excitement, try out these Top 5 activities to do on holiday break!

Number 1: Go outside and make a snowman, go sledding or snowboarding, make a snow fort or go cross country skiing. Get bundled up and make a snowman. Have a snowman contest with some friends and enjoy some hot cocoa after.

"Hanging out with friends is my favorite thing to do on break!" says freshman Tristin Howell.

Number 2: Have some baking fun! Make holiday treats such as toffee, cookies, hot cocoa and more! Toffee is a really good treat to split up and give as gifts!

Number 3: Sit in front of the fireplace and read a good book. If you are having a stressful week, relax in front of a beautiful fire and have some cookies.

Number 4: Go ice skating! A fun thing you can do with all group sizes is ice skating. You can make trains, have competitions and have races. Afterwards you can go shopping and have fun in town. Check out ConAgra Park's outdoor ice rink.

"I love to shop on holiday break!" says Emilie Halford, freshman.

Number 5: Have a movie marathon! Hang out with your friends and family and watch a good film!

# While the weather outside is frightful..

by Gabby Mears  
*Staff Writer*

Whether it's a snow blizzard that leaves you stuck inside for days, or the first snow of the season and the fun is just beginning, snow days all mean the same thing, no school!

What goes into a snow day? That decision is up to Superintendent Mr. Don Johnson.

On average, Fort Calhoun has room for four snow days per year before they have to be made up. Vice Principal Wemhoff says that while Mr. Johnson makes the final decision, there are many contributing factors that go into a snow day. "Safety of the students is the biggest thing. If we [school faculty] feel that the roads are unsafe to drive on and that someone could possibly get hurt, then we probably won't have school," says Wemhoff.

Along with road safety, the amount of snow that has and is predicted to fall, how much wind there is, and what other schools in our area are deciding to close all contribute to the decision.

On any given snow day while students and teachers are sleeping the time away in their beds, the office faculty is still doing their jobs. Some days when the snow is at its worst, Johnson and Mr. Green, principal, might be at school as early as 4 a.m.

And what do students and teachers do while our administration is working? Well according to Mrs. Shields, the absolute best thing about a snow day is that it is a day to sit in her "pajamas, watch soap operas and eat bon bons."

On the other hand, Savannah Twomey, sophomore, believes the two worst things about a snow day are that we might have to make the time up at the end of the year, and snow days can keep you cooped up inside your house with no way of getting out.

So whether you spend your time sleeping in, getting your car stuck in the snow, or taking extra time with your family, snow days still mean, no school!



# Where did Santa come from?

by Evan Melbourne  
*Staff Writer*

Every year around the time that the snow falls, the fat man in a red suit comes to our house, slides down the chimney and puts packages under our trees. Old St. Nick has become a legend and a tradition in many different cultures today. Yet from where did he originate? And what makes him the man that he is today?

The origin of the character Santa Claus goes back to the Bishop Nicholas who lived in Myra during the 4th Century. Myra today is a city in Turkey. St. Nicholas became well-known as being generous to the poor. It is said that he threw gold coins through the window of a poor family's home. So it was St. Nicholas whom Santa got the quality of gift-giving from. Yet what about his red and white attire?

At the beginning of the 1930s, the Swedish painter Haddon Sundblom introduced Santa's dress code. It was for the Christmas advertising campaign of the Coca-Cola company. They were the original stylists to wrap him in red-

and-white clothing with fur trim. Ever since, Santa's suit has been red with white fur trim. Although his attire is quite fashionable, Santa would be nowhere without his small army of believers.

Christmas just isn't the same without that little rug rat staying up late at night sipping hot chocolate and waiting for Ol' St. Nick. When interviewed, 4 out of 5 students admitted to believing in Santa Claus.

So aside from legends in foreign countries and advertising in a global market, Christmas and its main symbols of Santa Claus were made what they are today by the hearts of our youth. It all comes down to a belief in something magical, a belief in a man that can bring happiness to the world.

---

## Teen gift wish list varies

by Lisa Harnack  
*Staff Writer*

It is officially the holiday season and people are thinking about the perfect gifts to get for their friends and family. Sometimes you know just what to get someone, but sometimes it seems like nothing is right.

High school students can be hard to shop for. "I think it's because everything they want is so expensive," said Ms. Pace

Students want some pretty interesting gifts this year. Money was one response that was not too shocking. Money is not the most thoughtful gift, but what is more perfect for a teen?

Another wanted gift this year is Toms. Just about every teen girl would be pleased if she found a pair of trendy shoes under the tree for her.

One student in the senior class who wishes to remain anonymous wants a piercing for Christmas. A piercing is not something you always think of to give as a gift. Not all parents would be willing to give their child a piercing for Christmas, but for this teen she will be getting what she wants.

Senior Channa Lewis said she wants freedom for Christmas. "I just want to live my life!" Lewis said eagerly. For her friends Lewis says that giving the gift of friendship should be enough, but that socks were her signature gift.

Shopping for others takes time and planning and can be pretty stressful. So if you are really stumped this season you can't go wrong giving a nice pair of socks and some cash. It's easy, simple and stress free.



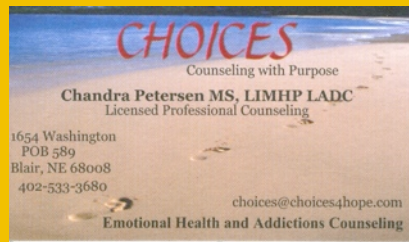
Money and silly socks are gifts some students want this Christmas. Photos courtesy of [google.com](https://www.google.com)



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Juniors Maddie Westergard and Lucas Lazure show off their basketball skills in a recent game.



## **Winter sports are anything but chilly**

by Connor Dethlefs  
Staff Writer

Winter sports are underway again at the "Fort". All signs are pointing to successful seasons for the boys basketball, girls basketball and wrestling teams.

The boys basketball team started out with a huge win in the first regular season game. On Dec. 1, they traveled to Platteview to win, 60-41, against the Class B school. Senior Connor Dethlefs and junior Kellon Johnson led the team in scoring, both with 13 points.

The team was able to follow that up on Dec. 5 for the school's first-ever win against Syracuse, winning 50-36. Junior Jordan Kann led the team with 18 points and six steals.

On Dec. 9 the boys played DC West at home and prevailed 84-70. Four players were in double-digit figures in scoring.

The girls basketball team shot only 18% from the two-point range and lost in a low-scoring game against Platteview, 35-26, on Dec. 1. Junior Maddie Westergard led the team with 14 points.

The girls got back on the winning track beating Syracuse 48-33. Westergard scored 21 points to led the team once again, and junior Brooke Ohrt led the defensive charge with eight steals.

The girls also pulled out a win against DC West on Dec. 9 to get their second win in a row.

The Pioneer wrestling team's first meet of the season was on Saturday, Nov. 3. They traveled to Bennington for a tournament. They had a rough showing, finishing 10th of 11 teams. Sophomore Gage Hartline was the only medalist, earning 3rd place in the 170 lbs. weight division. With seven returning lettermen and two returning state qualifiers, the wrestling team expects great results.



## "New Year" gets fair review

by Stephenie Dale  
Staff Writer

The crowd begins to cheer as the famous New Year's Eve ball drops in New York. The countdown begins and "HAPPY NEW YEAR" is yelled across the city!

The movie "New Year's Eve," which came to theatres on Dec. 9, celebrates everything in a typical lifetime: love, hope, forgiveness, second chances, death, self-reflection and fresh starts. It tells intertwining stories about what people do in New York City before the start of a new year.

The movie has a lineup of famous actors and actresses including Robert De Niro ("Meet the Parents"), Zac Efron ("17 Again"), Josh Duhamel ("When in Rome"), Abigail Breslin ("No Reservations"), Katherine Heigl ("The Ugly Truth"), Ashton Kutcher ("No Strings Attached"), Halle Berry ("Catwoman"), Chris "Ludacris" Bridges ("Crash") and singer John Bon Jovi.

Overall, I thought the movie was good, and if you're in need of an uplift, you should go see it. The movie was comical and interesting to see how everything tied together. However, there was a tearjerker part; therefore, I give it a B+.



Photo courtesy of watchfilm.com

## "Fort" selects favorite Holiday movies

by Adam Swartz-Brown  
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of amazon.com

The results are in. Listed below are the Top 10 Holiday movies chosen by your peers and teachers.

1. *It's A Wonderful Life*
2. *Elf*
3. *The Polar Express*
4. *Home Alone*
5. *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer*
6. *The Santa Clause*
7. *How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)*
8. *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
9. *How The Grinch Stole Christmas (animated)*
10. *A Christmas Story*



# Festive Foods

by Jordan Hudson  
Staff Writer

The ovens are heating up, the mixers are coming out, and the kitchens are wafting the aroma of baked goods. It's time for holiday baking.

From sugar cookies to Oreo balls, there is an endless amount of decadent treats to enjoy throughout the holidays.

Many people have different preferences as to what their favorite holiday treats are.

"I love angel food cake because it just reminds me of the holiday season," junior Shilee Erwin says.

Junior Brooke Linnenbrink excitedly says, "I love the seven layer Jell-O because my mom only makes it on special occasions, so when Christmas comes around I get excited!"

Everybody has different preferences as to what their favorite holiday treats are, but one thing remains the same: they are all delicious and filled with special memories.

## Oreo Balls

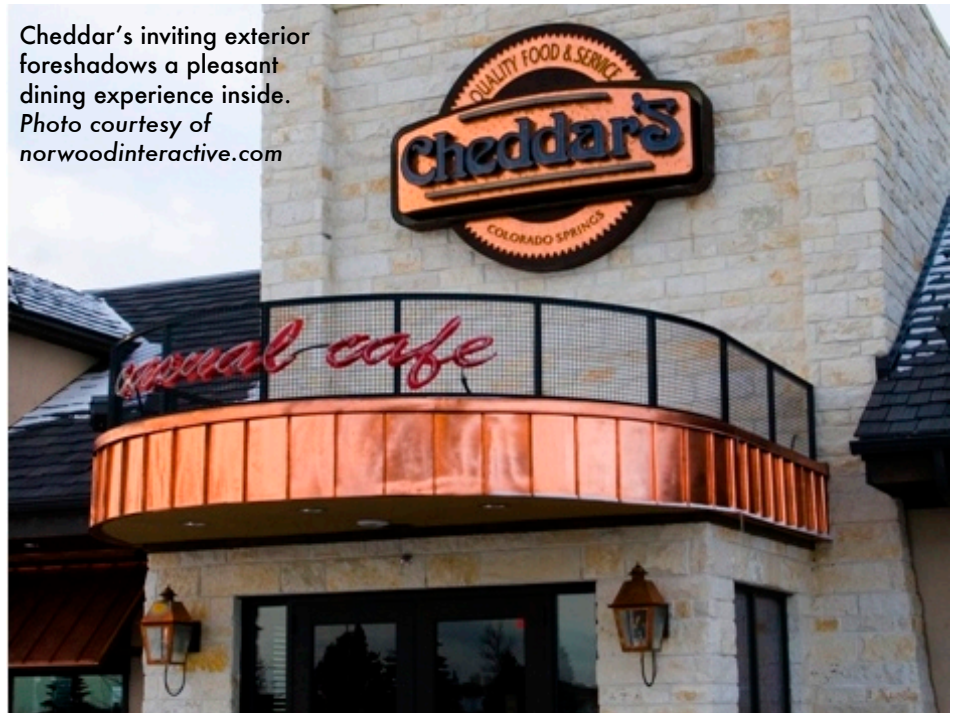
### Ingredients:

1 package Oreos (not Double Stuff)  
1 8-oz package cream cheese  
1 package almond bark

### Directions:

In a large mixing bowl, combine crushed cookies and cream cheese to form a stiff dough. Roll into balls and dip with a fork in melted candy coating. Let rest on waxed paper until set. Enjoy!

Cheddar's inviting exterior foreshadows a pleasant dining experience inside.  
Photo courtesy of  
norwoodinteractive.com



## Cheddar's prices and food aren't cheesy

by Emily Shannon  
Staff Writer

If you're looking for great food, a friendly staff and reasonable prices, Omaha has endless options. Where do you go if you're looking for all of those things plus a calm environment and generously portioned meals? Cheddar's, 12152 L St., is the place to go.

I have been to Cheddar's twice and have thoroughly enjoyed my food both times I've visited. The first time I ate at Cheddar's, I ordered a cup of baked potato soup. It was delicious and looked small, but was very filling if you're not too hungry.

My second time at Cheddar's I ordered a Crispy Chicken Salad. The salad cost only \$7 but gave me mixed reviews. The salad was more than I could eat in one sitting. The chicken on the salad was excellent, but the dressing was far from perfect. The honey mustard dressing wasn't sweet at all. As a matter of fact, it tasted more like mustard than honey mustard.

Chocolate shakes were for dessert. They were creamy with just the right amount of chocolate. We shared 2 shakes among four people. The metal tin that came with the shakes had enough of the shake left over to refill the glass.

Cheddar's can get pretty crowded no matter what the day. I recommend going before 5 p.m. if you don't want a long wait.

The staff is very friendly and extremely helpful at Cheddar's. I have rarely been to a restaurant multiple times and had two different waitresses who were as friendly as the two who served us. The service was also very quick. Our meal came out to us about 5-10 minutes after we ordered.

Overall, my dining experience at Cheddar's was great and I would recommend it to anyone who wants a modern American Fare restaurant with great food. I give it a 4.5/5 stars.

# Sweet Tooth for Charity

By Emily Lewis  
Co-Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year! December is by far the month with the most spirit.

To help get students get in the giving spirit this holiday season Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Student Council held a candy cane fundraiser.

For the past three years, these two clubs have organized this fundraiser for students and teachers so they can send candy canes with an attached to a friend, sibling or secret admirer.

"I LOVE CANDY CANES," said an eager student.

So if you are stumped on what gifts to buy a friend this holiday season, buy a candy cane. Not only are the candy canes cheap, two for \$1, but the money goes to a good cause .

The candy canes were sold from Dec. 12-16. This year the FBLA and Student Council raised over \$200.

All money goes to the Siena/Francis House, which provides emergency overnight shelter and food to men, women and women with children.

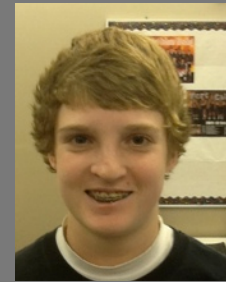


Juniors Jonas Kessler and Shilee Erwin and sophomore Katie Edie prepare candy cane orders for distribution to students and teachers.

Photo by Emily Lewis

## We Ask, You Tell

What's your favorite holiday tradition?



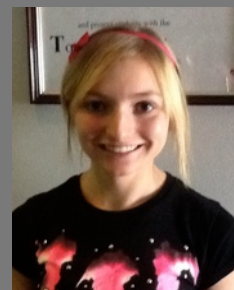
"Opening presents on Christmas."

-Peyton Griesert, freshman



"Watching for the reindeer in the sky."

- Anna Koenecke, sophomore



"Hide pickle in the tree. Everyone tries to find it, whoever finds it gets the present, and hides the pickle next year."

- Shilee Erwin, junior



"Having pizza, cider, and peppermint ice cream while putting up the Christmas tree."

- Jeffrey Hofer, senior

## Caption Contest

You've seen the images hanging up around school. Hopefully, you wrote a creative caption. Below are some of the winning entries. Keep your eyes open for more images and enter the next caption contest.



Vince Hartline  
Dino-"Freeze, Frenchy."  
Dog-"I swear it's not mine; it's that English fella."

Shea Kister  
Dino-"Come at me, bro."  
Dog-"I ain't even mad."

Dan Sill  
Dog-"Don't hurt me Mrs. Wellman-High Horse. You're only mad 'cause you're prego!"  
Dino-"Rawr!"

Emilie H. & Brielle M.  
Dog-"Come at me, bro."  
Dino-"Yo, dude that's salty."